

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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SUBJECT: LONG BORET'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK

GKR PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK APRIL 6. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF HIS REMARKS ON NEGOTIATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO SETTLE THE KHMER CONFLICT. INAUDIBLE PORTIONS ARE INDICATED BY DOTS.

1. DO YOU SEE ANY DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO SOLVE...TO COME UP WITH PEACE TALKS.. TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS..

A. THAT'S THE ONLY MENS.. THERE WOULD BE NO MILITARY VICTORY FOR THIS SIDE. I'M STILL CONVINCED, AND THE ONLY WAY TO AN END TO THE SUFFERINGS OF THE KHMER PEOPLE IS THE POLITICAL SOLUTION. THE ONLY WAY.

Q: IS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS?

A: THERE SHOULD BE, BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY. NO MILITARY WAY. THE COMMUNIST SIDE... THEY HOPE TO IMPOSE A MILITARY SOLUTION. THEY CAN NEVER GET IT.

Q. BUT IF THEY REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE,* WHAT WILL YOU DO?

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A THEY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANNIHILATION OF THE CAMBODIAN

PEOPLES.. FOR THE PROLONGATION OF THE SUFFERING.
WE ON OUR SIDE ARE READY TO MAKE ANY SACRIFICE PROVIDE
THAT OUR PEOPLE COULD RESTORE PEACE AND NATIONAL RECO-
GNIATION IF THE OTHER SIDE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SIT DOWN AROUND
THE SAME TABLE AND NEGOTIATE, THEY THEY WOULD BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WILL HAPPEN. BECAUSE THE WAR WOULD GO ON.

Q. BUT ISN'T THERE A CHANCE THAT YOU COULD SUFFER RATHER
SOON A MILITARY DEFEAT?

A. WE WOULD SUSTAIN A GOOD NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, THAT
YOU CAN BE SURE, MILITARILY SPEAKING.

Q. BUT ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THE ENEMY FORCES ARE GETTING CLOSER
AND CLOSER TO THE CAPITAL?

A. OH. SINCE THE FIRST OF JANUARY 1975. NOT ONLY NOW ON THE
SIXTH OF APRIL.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE AMERICAN DECISION TO EVACUATE
ITS EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH?

A. OH. YOU SHOULD ASK THE AMERICAN EMBASSY THERE TO KNOW
ABOUT THIS PLAN. I WAS AWAY SINCE THE FIRST OF APRIL.

Q. DID YOU STILL THINK THAT AMERICAN AID IS STILL VERY
VITAL FOR THE RESISTANCE?

A. IT'S UP TO THE AMERICAN CONGRESS. WE WISH THE ADDITIONAL
AID. IT'S UP TO THE CONGRESS. WE CAN'T PREDICT THE
DECISION OF THE ...

Q. BUT DO YOU STILL THINK IT'S STILL SO VERY IMPORTANT TO
HELP YOUR RESISTANCE TO...

A. OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

QA. BUT IF YOU DON'T GET IT, WILL YOU NOT SUFFER DEFEAT, THEN?
A IF WE DON'T GET IT, THAT WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE FOR
THE KHMER PEOPLE.
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Q. IF YOU DON'T GET U.S. AID, WOULD YOU THINK...

A. I WOULD SAY, I DON'T REPLY NOW.

Q. ARE YOU THINKING OF APPEALING TO THE UNITED NATIONS?

A. (INAUDIBLE) RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH

SIDES.. BUT I DON'T THINK THE UNITED NATIONS COULD DO MORE AT THE TIME BEING.

Q. WHAT IS THERE TO NEGOTIATE?

A. WHAT? YES, NOW THE AIM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO END THE CONFLICT. AND THE FINAL DECISION SHOULD BELONG TO THE KHMER PEOPLE NOT TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES FROM THIS SIDE OR ANOTHER SIDE. WE SHOULD HAVE ELECTIONS AND WHOEVER GETS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD RUN THE COUNTRY IN THE FUTURE. BUT WHAT WE WISH IS TO HAVE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND TO LET THE PEOPLE GIVE THE FINAL DECISION OF THE FATE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE FUTURE. IN CONSOLIDATING THE DECISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DECIDE THEMSELVES ON THE PROBLEM.

Q. DO YOU FORSEE A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN AN INTERIM PERIOD?

A. NOT FOR THE TIME BEING, BECAUSE THE OTHER SIDE IS REJECTING THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE.

Q. WILL YOU BE IN ANY PERSONAL DANGER YOURSELF?

A. IN DANGER? OH, YOU SEE IN A COUNTRY AT WAR, ANYBODY IS IN DANGER, NOT ONLY ON OUR SIDE BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE. TOO

Q. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. THE OTHER SIDES CLAIMS THAT THEY ARE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. SO THAT SHOULD BE PROVED BY THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES. I MEAN THERE SHOULD BE ELECTIONS.

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IN THAT EVENT WE SHOULD HAVE SUPERVISION OF I DON'T KNOW, ASEAN OR THE UNITED NATIONS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE SURE THAT THE KHMER PEOPLE A LARGE MAJORITY OF THEM.. WE SHOULD RESPECT THEIR WILL. IF THE OTHER SIDE, THEY CAN CLAIM THAT THEY REPRESENT THE PEOPLE, THEN THEY SHOULD NEGOTIATE AND THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THE ELECTIONS AND LET THE PEOPLE SAY THE LAST WORD. WHAT REGIME OR WHAT LEADERSHIP THEY WANT.

Q. WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE KHMER ROUGUE BEGIN ENTERING PHNOM PENH?

A. IF THEY ENTER... BUT I AM SORRY. BUT WE WILL NEVER HAVE THIS, EVEN. YOU CAN BE SURE.

Q. SO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE ENOUGH SUPPORT FROM ASEAN

COUNTIRES FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

ASEAN COUNTIRES OR THESE SUPPORTING THE IDEA OF HAVING

....PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KHMER PROBLEM, THAT PEACE
SIS RESTORED TO THE COUNTRY AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

Q. YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH ALL ASEAN MEMBERS SO FAR?

A WE USED TO HAVE CONTACTS, BUT NOT THIS TIME THIS TIME
WE HAVE... MINISTER CHATCHAI AND MR. ADAM MALIK

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYPLAN FOR STENGTHENING THIS CONTACT WHEN
YOU RETURN TOPHNOM PENH?

A. YES, I WILL DISCUSS....

Q. WHEN WILL PRESIDENT LON NOL GO TO THE UNITED STATES.

A ON THE TENTH.
MASTERS

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